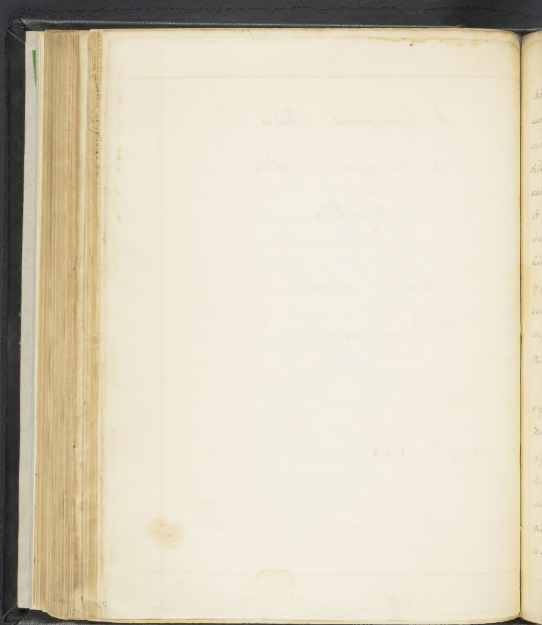


An Inaugural Thesis  
For the degree of M.D.  
—  
On Hepatitis

By  
Isaac T. Smith  
of  
Pennsylvania.

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 1828



Although medicine is a subject on which speculation is peculiarly barren and unprofitable, as even dangerous, yet every endeavor to explore its secret recesses is amply commendable. While it is admitted that important results can come only from the investigations of mature experience, it will not be denied that deductions not entirely incorrect may be drawn from facts discovered and established by others. It is evident to every one that a compilation of facts is the only purpose in which an inexperienced person can be in any degree successful. With him all attempt at originality of remark must necessarily degenerate into stupid theorizing.

That a knowledge of the morbid affections of the liver is of the first importance it would be superfluous to assert. Holding as it does the highest rank in the animal economy, a proper performance of its functions is absolutely essential to health; and some of the most terrific maladies to which we are subject can be traced to that organ in a state of disease. The hepatic apparatus like other parts of the body is liable to inflammation, which is divided into acute

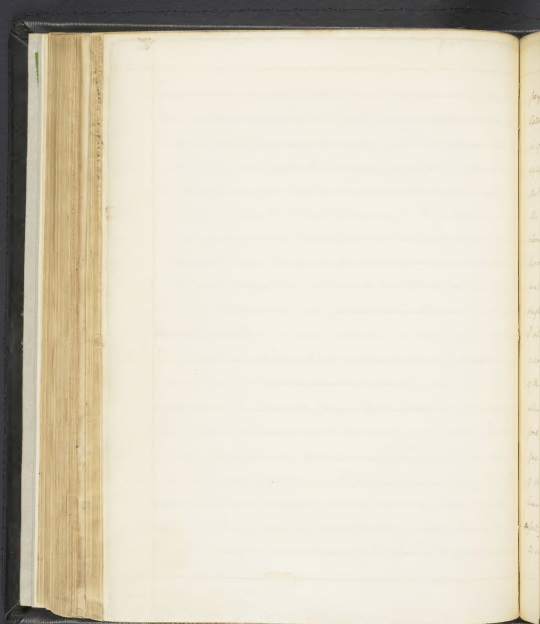


and chronic the intermediate state has been observed, which is denominated subacute. There is also some distinction made in the disease, as it may affect the various figures of the gland. When the inflammation occupies the Peritoneal coat, the pain is sharp & lancinating and the pulse small, hard, and corded, the tongue white &c. When the pain is dull and obtuse the pulse slower & fuller inflammation of the substance is denoted. When the lungs are affected severely, it is supposed that the convex surface is affected, and the concave, when there is much distop & stomach.

#### The inflammation

is caused by violent actions of strength and activity, and it is not uncommon for persons after exposure to complain almost immediately of pungent pain in the side, which shall eventually prove to be a severe hepatitis.

Violent <sup>action</sup> bodily, will more severely produce this inflammatory disease, if performed under the influence of a burning sun, or of ardent spirits. Many of the numerous cases of hepatitis among the labouring classes of our people can easily be traced to their extreme aversion to the



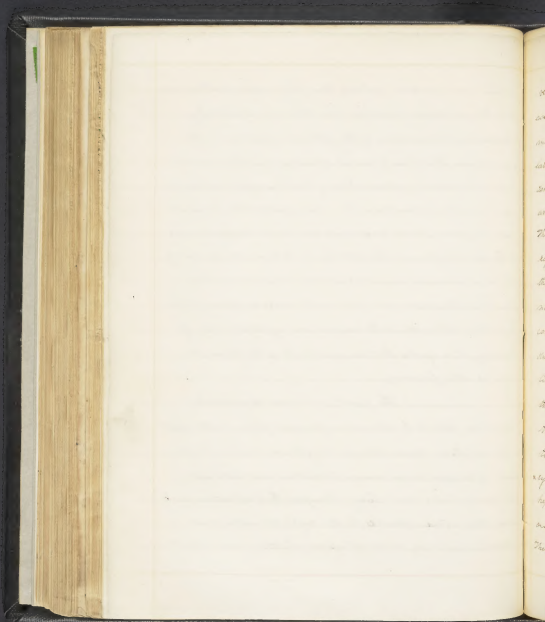
performances of any kind of action, except under its stimu-  
lating influence. The exposure to dissipation & dissolute habits  
in youth transition is a fruitful source of hepatic disease  
especially when combined with moisture. It has been remarked  
that as the lungs are affected by cold, in the same ratio is  
the liver affected by heat. That the inhabitants of tropical  
climate are so extremely liable to disease of the liver cannot  
however be solely attributed to the heat. There are many concu-  
rent causes, which operate very much in its production, and  
ought in many cases indeed to be styled its exciting cause.  
I allude here particularly to the case of foreigners from  
a colder climate, who do not adapt themselves to the customs  
of the country, but carry with them their mode of living, to  
which they had at home been accustomed. The stimulating  
food and drink which was then harmless or even necessary  
for the support of his system, is here no less than a species  
of poison. Foreigners in the East and West Indies, living  
luxuriously and being engaged during the heats of the day  
in the active employment, feel irresistibly disposed  
to enjoy the refreshing sea-breezes at evening air. But the





position is one of extreme fatality. The profuse perspiration into which the individual may have been thrown is suddenly checked, and congestions of the internal organs is the consequence. The abuse of ardent spirits is one of the most common causes of inflammation of the liver, and we rarely see an habitual drunkard who is not affected with it in its chronic form. Harsh medicines are also a common cause of the chronic form of hepatitis. To the children are peculiarly liable. Mechanical injuries & certain emotions of the mind are also enumerated among the sources from which hepatitis is derived. To the excessive and injudicious use of mercury, it is asserted that we owe much of its present comparative frequency.

The first and most characteristic symptom often to be observed is a pungent pain in the right hypochondriac region though it is more commonly preceded by languor, nausea, aversion to motion and chilliness. The pain, which is not always pungent, but sometimes dull and obtuse extends upwards to the right shoulder and clavicle. There is no cough, oppression of breathing, and a most

















[illegible][illegible]



I have the same mental transition, as in  
the previous cases, of all the preceding  
being forgotten, but a memory that the  
American revolution is connected with it  
some mental association being what we  
call the "American Revolution" and  
the "American Revolution" is a term  
which is used to denote the only really  
revolutionary republic in the world  
and the only one which is not a

When the patient symptoms, as in the  
case of the patient, are not only  
the same, but also the same, and  
the same, and the same, and the same,  
the same, and the same, and the same,  
the same, and the same, and the same,

The third, the second, the first, the  
first, the second, the third, the  
first, the second, the third, the  
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ation, sleep, or in any other state of  
time; a very different matter we pass a  
greatly extended one in these sensations  
becomes unperceptible and throbbing, e.g. that  
of heart action may now be noticed  
a certain period of time on the back motion  
of the right hand and arm, and  
disturbance. The matter of the sleep may be  
discharged in a great variety of ways; e.g. usually  
into the stomach into the duodenum the  
work of the nervous system of secretion of the  
duodenum may pass into the thorax and  
lungs. Each of these is distinguished by  
some peculiarity in the mode of its  
operation. When a discharge into the lungs  
it will be thrown off by coughing into the  
stomach by vomiting, and when into the  
duodenum, in the duodenum the food, the  
human matter into the duodenum, and  
even of a food, human matter in the duodenum.



The various groups, and consequently through  
the different areas, and these various  
distinctions are to be considered as consequently  
partial inside those extremely wide through the  
distinctions to the deep water etc. etc.

At times it seems to be a very interesting  
when it is very common in the case of the water

The water to the deep water, and the water  
to the water, and the water to the water

At times, and the water to the water, and the water  
to the water, and the water to the water

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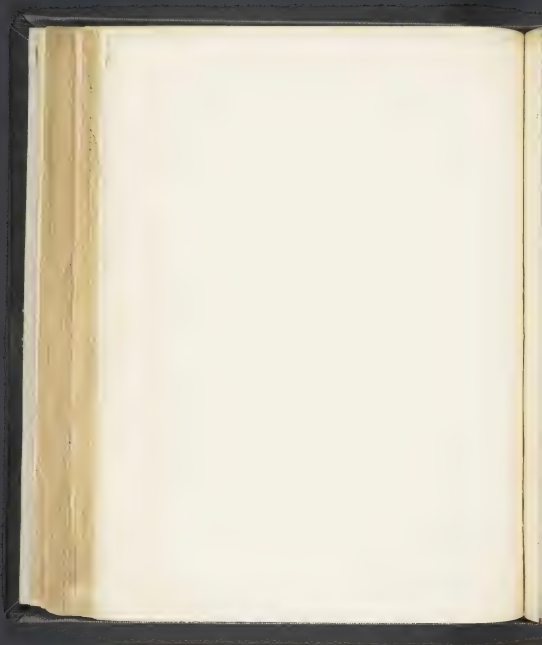








1847  
The first of the year  
was a very cold one  
and the snow lay  
on the ground for  
several days.  
The weather was  
very disagreeable  
and the people  
were much  
convinced.  
The snow lay  
on the ground  
for several days.  
The weather was  
very disagreeable  
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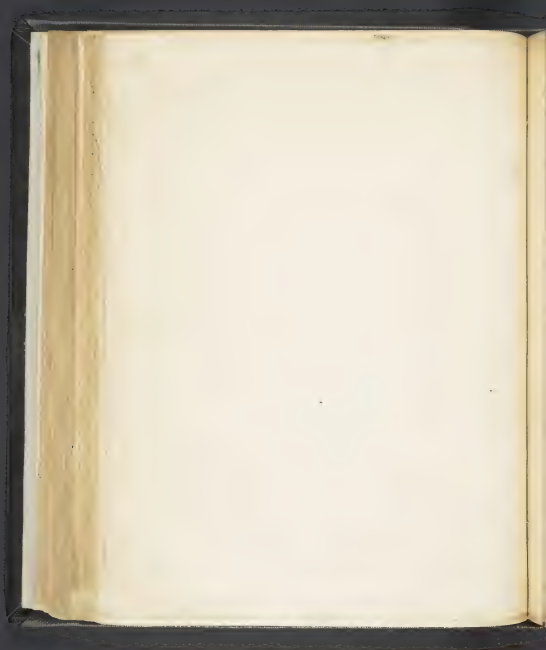




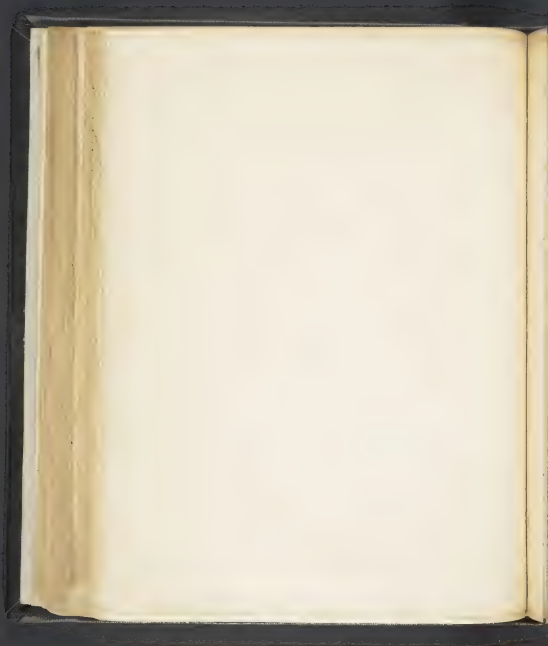












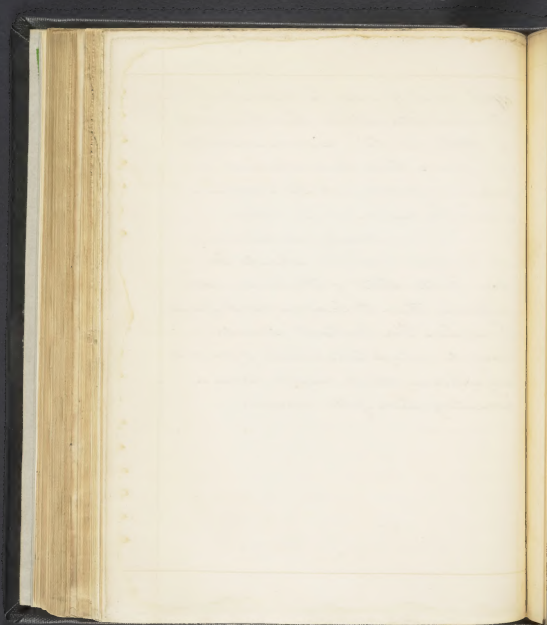




effect must of course be preferable.

Various other articles have been used in obstructed loeias, as ammoniac &c but few of them have obtained a general confidence, with the exception of sandelin and one or two others.

During convalescence the greatest attention should be paid to the state of the bowels, never suffering them to become constipated or irregular. The patient should avoid all indigestible articles of food, and every exposure which might prove a re-exciting cause of the disease.





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P.

30 Sanson Street.

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Dated March 6<sup>th</sup> 1828

